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January 23, 1956

Honorable Sherman Adams
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Governor Adams:

The Central Intelligence Agency, headed by our good friend Allen Dulles, is presently determining the feasibility of locating its new permanent headquarters at Langley, Virginia. Acting in the belief that there were a number of more suitable sites for this new facility in Maryland, civic leaders of many communities have contacted me in favor of specific locations in their areas. Among these has been Doctor Thomas B. Symons, formerly President of The Board of Regents of the University of Maryland, and now an official of the Suburban Trust Company in Takoma Park. In connection with this matter, Doctor Symons, who is a close personal friend, has written me as follows:

"There was one matter that I wanted to bring to your attention but neglected it, namely, the new headquarters for the CIA. I see by the morning paper that the President has recommended an appropriation of \$39 million for this project. It would be wonderful if we could convince Mr. Dulles and the appropriation committees of the availability of the 1,000 acre tract now owned by the Government on the Washington Expressway and thus save the taxpayer at least \$10 million by virtue of transportation and all utilities being now available to the Maryland tract.

"I presume you have noticed that the President day before yesterday appointed an overall Board to look into the future policy of the CIA. This Board is headed by the President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and several other outstanding men are included on the Board, by appointment of the President. I am wondering if you could in some way bring to the attention of the President of this Board the desirability of looking into the policy, convenience, efficiency and economy, of the Maryland tract in preference to the so-called Langley tract in Virginia that the Agency seems to prefer."

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It would be deeply appreciated if the recommendations
contained in Doctor Symon's letter receive close consideration.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER
United States Senator

JMB:cc

26 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

The Director spoke to Col. Goodpaster about the attached request made by Senator Butler to Governor Adams and suggested that this was a matter for consideration by the White House and the Committee. The Director also suggested to Col. Goodpaster that the reply to Senator Butler's letter might simply state that the Committee had just met and had not had an opportunity to determine its scope.


Executive Assistant
to the Director

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